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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	**Application No.** 09/607,374	**Applicant(s)** CHAVEZ ET AL.
	Examiner Blaine Basom	**Art Unit** 2173

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _10 October 2006_.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _40-59_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _40-59_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed

under 37 CFR §1.53(d) for the instant application on October 10, 2006. The Applicants have

properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on

the merits follows herewith.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' amendments to independent claims 40 and

50. Regarding claim 40, and the claims dependent thereon, the Applicants submit that neither

Hickman (U.S. Patent No. 5,361,361 to Hickman et al.) nor Banning (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,957

to Banning), cited in the previous Office Action, teaches "the unified taxonomy structure being

common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors and a first level of

categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure being predefined,

static, and used by all the different vendors of software and hardware components installed on

the computer," as is recited in amended claim 40. In response, the Examiner respectfully

presents the Irwin document ("Managing On-Line Help in a Networked Multi-Platform

Environment" by Irwin et al.), which as shown below, teaches such a unified taxonomy structure.

The Applicants' arguments with respect to claim 40 and its dependents have thus been

considered, but are moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

Regarding claim 50, and the claims dependent thereon, the Applicants submit that

Hickman and Banning fail to teach "the mapping data stored in a mapping data file including an

action field configurable to include data to indicate whether the contents or mapping of the topics

are to be one of the following: added, removed, and updated," as is recited in amended claim 50.

In response, the Examiner respectfully presents the Portable Document Format Reference

Manual, which as shown below, teaches such an action field. Accordingly, the Applicants'

arguments with respect to claim 50 and its dependents have been considered, but are moot in

view of the following new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 40 and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. 5,361,361, which is attributed to Hickman et al. (and hereafter referred to as

"Hickman"), and also over the article entitled "Managing On-Line Help in a Networked Multi-

Platform Environment," which is authored by Irwin et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Irwin").

In general, Hickman discloses a method for providing concurrent access to hierarchical help

provided by multiple independent applications (see column 1, lines 24-53). Such hierarchical

help is specifically organized into categories, topics, and sub-topics (see column 2, lines 11-14).

As applications generally involve a plurality of hardware components of a computer system,

such as the memory and input devices, it is interpreted that the help information for the

application programs includes help topics relating to not only software components of the

applications, but also hardware components required by the applications. For example,

installation of an application involves the memory of the computer system, and various input

commands to the application similarly involve an input component, like a mouse or keyboard.

Moreover, Hickman discloses that such hierarchical help is implemented on a computer, via a

computer-readable medium (see column 2, line 60 – column 3, line 40; and column 7, lines 14-

19). Hickman thus presents a computer-readable medium having computer-executable

components for execution on a computer for presenting a plurality of help topics for software

and hardware components installed on the computer.

Specifically regarding claim 40, Hickman discloses that the computer system

implementing the above-described help system comprises multiple independent applications,

each application having a set of help files (see column 4, lines 20-29). It is understood that the

applications are stored in the memory of the computer, as is known in the art. Consequently,

such a computer memory storing the applications, and thus the help files of the applications, is

considered a help content store for storing help contents for a plurality of help topics, the help

content store having a plurality of separate vendor folders, i.e. files, which correspond to

different vendors of software and hardware components installed on the computer, each vendor

folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor. In

addition, Hickman further discloses that each application also comprises a help file directory,

which is used to map the help topics associated with the help files into a "hierarchical and

integrated listing of help file topics from multiple applications" (see column 4, lines 30-51).

This hierarchical and integrated listing is considered a "unified taxonomy structure," like that of

the present invention, as it is common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the

different vendors and used by the different vendors (for example, see figure 5, and its associated

description in column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 66). As the levels of topics within the

hierarchical and integrated listing are defined by the help file directories of the various

applications (see column 4, lines 30-51), each of the levels of categories within the hierarchical

and integrated listing, including the first level, is predefined. The help file directories

particularly include data for identifying the position of each topic or sub-topic within the

hierarchical and integrated listing, and also, data for identifying the location of the help content

associated with each help topic, the help content being stored in the help files described above

(see column 4, line 52 – column 5, line 27). This conglomeration of help file directories

associated with the applications stored on the computer system thus provides a help database,

like that of the claimed invention, comprising mapping data for mapping help topics into a

unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the

different vendors, whereby a first and second level of categories in the unified taxonomy

structure is predefined and used by all the different vendors of hardware and software installed

on the computer (each application has help topics presented on the first level), and whereby the

mapping data includes data for each help topic for identifying a node position of each help topic

in the taxonomy structure and a location of corresponding help content in a help content store.

Furthermore, Hickman discloses that a help utility may automatically recognize the installation

of new applications and include help information topics from the newly installed applications

into the above-described hierarchical outline structure (see column 2, lines 19-25). Such a help

utility thus comprises a help content update module for updating help contents received in the

content store and the mapping data in the help database based on update packets, i.e. applications

or new versions of applications, which are received from vendors. Lastly, Hickman discloses

that the above-described help utility is also used to display the hierarchical outline structure of help topics to a user (see column 6, lines 4-36), and also, is used to retrieve and display help content associated with each help topic in response to user-selection of the help topic displayed in the outline structure (see column 6, lines 37-66). This help utility is consequently considered a help application like that of the claimed invention, which is for providing a user interface for presenting help topics to a user, and which is programmed to interactively display a unified taxonomy structure using mapping data in a help database and help contents stored in a content store, including displaying help categories and help topics in the unified taxonomy structure in response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user-selected help topic, and displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic. Accordingly, Hickman presents a computer-readable medium like that of claim 40, which is for presenting a unified taxonomy structure having a predefined first and second level of categories. However, as demonstrated by figures 4A, 4B, and 5, the help topics presented within the unified taxonomy structure are organized according to the application to which they are associated. That is, the help topics for each application are presented together, with the first level of help topics within the unified taxonomy structure comprising the major help topics of each application. Consequently, the first and second levels of categories within the unified taxonomy structure of Hickman are not static, as required by claim 40, since adding or removing an application (and its help files) would result in the addition or removal of help topics from the first level and second levels.

Nevertheless, organizing application help files in a taxonomy structure, with a predefined and static first and second levels of categories, is well-known in the art. For example, Irwin presents such a taxonomy structure (referred to as a "help tree"), which categorizes the help

content for software existing on one or more UNIX-based computer systems (see e.g. "THE

NEW HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on pages 159-160). As demonstrated by Irwin,

the first and second level of categories in this structure are predefined, static, and used by all the

different vendors of software and hardware components installed on each computer (see e.g.

"THE NEW HELP TREE" on page 158, and Figure 1 on pages 159-160).

As described above, the help topics presented within the unified taxonomy structure of

Hickman are organized according to the application to which they are associated. Having a large

amount of applications would result in a large first level of help topics. It would have therefore

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hickman and Irwin

before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the unified taxonomy structure taught

by Hickman to include additional levels, including a static first and second levels, to organize the

plurality application help topics, as done by Irwin and described above. It would have been

advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because the application files,

being organized hierarchically, would be easier to find, as is demonstrated by Irwin.

Accordingly, Hickman and Irwin teach a computer-readable medium like that of claim 40.

Concerning claim 45, Hickman discloses that that a help utility may automatically

recognize the installation of new applications, and as described above, include help information

topics from the newly installed applications into the above-described hierarchical and integrated

listing by updating the help directories. As described above, such a help utility is considered a

help content update module, like that of the claimed invention. It is understood that a user may

similarly remove applications, as is known in the art. Since the help directories specify the help

topics for applications *installed* on the computer system, it is interpreted that removing an

application would remove a directory for that application. Consequently, the help database, which as described above is the conglomeration of such directories, would be updated. Thus it is understood that the help content update module of Hickman is programmed to add, move, and remove help topics from the hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the mapping data in the help database.

With respect to claim 46, Hickman discloses that a user may perform a search for a particular help topic or set of help topics (see column 6, line 67 – column 7, line 13). In particular, the above-described help directories are searched to find topics that match user-specified search criteria (see column 8, lines 26-43). The help directories, which as described above are considered a help database, thus comprise data specifying a search keyword associated with each help topic, the search keyword being the name of the help topic.

As per claims 47-48, Hickman discloses that the above-described help file directories, which are considered a help database, comprise a topic descriptor field (see column 4, lines 61-65). This descriptor field contains an alphanumeric string that specifies the help file content for a particular topic or sub-topic within help files, and which is capable of being displayed to the user (see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 2). In other words, it is interpreted that this descriptor field comprises the name of each topic or sub-topic. Consequently, this descriptor field is used to specify an index string, i.e. name, associated with each help topic. Hickman further discloses that a menu selection button may be selected in order to display the hierarchical and integrated listing of topic and sub-topic names (see column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 36). Thus the user interface provided by the help application of Hickman includes an interface element presenting an option to view index strings of help topics.

Claims 44 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman and Irwin, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No.

6,236,989, which is attributed to Mandyam et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Mandyam"). As

described above, Hickman and Irwin present a computer-readable medium like that of claim 40.

In particular, Hickman discloses a help file directory, which as described above, contains

mapping data for mapping help topics into a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and

help topics. It is interpreted that the structure of the directory implicitly denotes the parent node

of each help topic in the taxonomy structure. For example, referring to the directories of figures

4A and 4B and the associated hierarchical structure of figure 5, the topics and sub-topics in the

hierarchical structure are displayed in the same order as listed in the directories. Consequently in

the directories of Hickman, the parent of a sub-topic is specified by the first topic preceding the

sub-topic. In other words, the mapping data for each topic implicitly includes a parent ID

identifying a parent node of the topic in the unified taxonomy structure. Continuing on,

Hickman further discloses that the help file directory includes a file identifier field, which

defines the location of the help file corresponding to each help topic (see column 5, lines 2-6).

Neither Hickman nor Irwin, however, explicitly specify that this file identifier field comprises a

URL, as expressed in claim 44, or that the help contents in the help files are written in a mark-up

language, as is specified in each of claim 49.

Like Hickman, Mandyam discloses a method for providing help information for a

software application residing on a computer. More specifically, and regarding the claimed

invention, Mandyam discloses that the help information may be migrated to HTML and stored

on a web server, from which it may be accessed by specifying a URL associated with the content

(see column 6, lines 24-34, and column 2, lines 44-50).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify the method of Hickman and Irwin such that the help files are

accessed from a web server, as is done by Mandyam. In other words, it would have been

obvious to modify Hickman such that the file identifier field comprises a URL which specifies

the location of the help contents associated with each help topic, the help contents being written

in HTML, as is taught by Mandyam. One would have been motivated to create such a

combination because storing help files on a web server consumes less space on the user's

computer, as is taught by Mandyam (see column 6, lines 24-29).

Claims 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman and Irwin, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No.

5,825,356, which is attributed to Habib et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Habib"). As shown

above, Hickman and Irwin teach a computer-readable medium, like that recited in claim 40,

which is for providing help information. Neither Hickman nor Irwin, however, teaches that such

help information includes a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by

the help contents stored in the help content store, as is expressed in claim 41.

Like Hickman, Habib presents a method for providing help information to a user,

wherein this help information is organized into various topics and is presented on the user's

computer (see column 3, lines 44-51). Habib additionally discloses that the presentation of help

information includes displaying a "do-it-all" button, which when selected, causes the computer

to execute a script in order to complete a task regarding a selected help topic (see column 1, lines 57-60, and column 4, line 57 – column 6, line 3). Such scripts are particularly maintained in a script library referred to as a "catalog file" (see column 13, lines 41-67). Consequently, like recited in claim 41, Habib presents a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hickman, Irwin, and Habib before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the help system taught by Hickman and Irwin such it includes buttons with similar functionality to the "do-it-all" buttons described above and by Habib. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because "do-it-all" buttons provide a faster means of fixing a problem than that of manually fixing the problem, as is expressed by Habib (see column 4, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 42 and 43, since particular sets of scripts are associated with specific help contents, as is expressed above, it is apparent that with the above-described combination of Hickman, Irwin, and Habib, there exists some sort of store which is checked to identify which scripts to execute for particular help content. Habib particularly discloses that, for the help content to access a script, the help content must know the name of the script (see column 13, lines 41-65, particularly lines 49-52). Consequently, each help topic is considered to necessarily comprise storage for storing information, specifically the names of required scripts, which identifies that the help content associated with the topic is authorized to access such scripts. The help application checks these script names to determine what scripts the help content is allowed

to access. Such storage storing these script names is therefore considered an "authorization

store," like that described in claims 42 and 43.

        Claims 50 and 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman and Irwin, which is described above, and also over the Portable

Document Format (PDF), as described by the "Portable Document Format Reference Manual,

Version 1.2". As described above in the rejection for claim 40, Hickman discloses a computer

comprising: a plurality of software and hardware components installed on the computer; a help

content store for storing help contents for help topics for software and hardware components

installed on the computer, the help content store having a plurality of separate vendor folders

corresponding to different vendors of the software and hardware components installed on the

computer, each vendor folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a

corresponding vendor; a help database containing mapping data for mapping the help topics from

the different vendors into a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, the

unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the

different vendors, and used by all the different vendors of software and hardware components

installed on the computer, the mapping data including data for each help topic for identifying a

node position of the help topic in the unified taxonomy structure and a location of corresponding

help content of the help topic in the help content store; a help content update module for

updating help contents in the content store and the mapping data in the help database based on

update packets received from the vendors; and a help application for providing a user interface

for presenting the help topics to a user, the help application being programmed to interactively

display the unified taxonomy structure using mapping data in the help database and help contents

in the content store, including displaying help categories and help topics in the unified taxonomy

structure in response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user selected help topic and

displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic, as is required by claim 50. Irwin

further teaches using a unified taxonomy structure comprising a first level of categories that are

predefined and static, as is described above. Accordingly, Hickman and Irwin teach a computer

similar to the computer of claim 50. Neither Hickman nor Irwin, however, explicitly teaches

implementing a mapping data file including an action field configurable to include data to

indicate whether the contents or mapping of the topics are to be added, removed, or updated, as

is required by claim 50. Nevertheless, adding such an action field to a file to indicate that

portions of the file are updated is well-known in the art.

For example, the Portable Document Format generally describes an "incremental

update," in which a file is updated without rewriting the entire file (see e.g. section 5.6 on pages

70-72). Such an incremental update entail appending a cross-reference section to the end of the

file to indicate contents of the file that are to be added, removed, or updated (see e.g. section 5.6

on pages 70-72).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the

teachings of Hickman, Irwin, and the PDF Reference Manual before him at the time the

invention was made, to modify the help application taught by Hickman and Irwin such that it is

updated via incremental update, like described in the PDF Reference Manual. That is, it would

have been obvious to modify the mapping data of Hickman and Irwin to include an action field

(i.e. a cross-reference section) that indicates contents or topics that are added, removed, or

updated, when updating the help contents or taxonomy structure. It would have been

advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize this combination because such an incremental

update allows the files to be updated, but without rewriting the entire files, as is taught by the

PDF Reference Manual. Hickman, Irwin, and the PDF Reference Manual thus teach a computer

like that of claim 50.

Concerning claim 55, Hickman discloses that that a help utility may automatically

recognize the installation of new applications, and as described in the previous paragraph,

include help information topics from the newly installed applications into the above-described

hierarchical and integrated listing by updating the help directories. As described above, such a

help utility is considered a help content update module, like that of the claimed invention. It is

understood that a user may similarly remove applications, as is known in the art. Since the help

directories specify the help topics for applications *installed* on the computer system, it is

interpreted that removing an application would remove a directory for that application.

Consequently, the help database, which as described above is the conglomeration of such

directories, would be updated. Thus it is understood that the help content update module of

Hickman is programmed to add, move, and remove help topics from the hierarchical and

integrated listing by updating the mapping data in the help database.

With respect to claim 56, Hickman discloses that a user may perform a search for a

particular help topic or set of help topics (see column 6, line 67 – column 7, line 13). In

particular, the above-described help directories are searched to find topics that match user-

specified search criteria (see column 8, lines 26-43). The help directories, which as described

above are considered a help database, thus comprise data specifying a search keyword associated

with each help topic, the search keyword being the name of the help topic.

As per claims 57-58, Hickman discloses that the above-described help file directories,

which are considered a help database, comprise a topic descriptor field (see column 4, lines 61-

65). This descriptor field contains an alphanumeric string that specifies the help file content for

a particular topic or sub-topic within help files, and which is capable of being displayed to the

user (see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 2). In other words, it is interpreted that this

descriptor field comprises the name of each topic or sub-topic. Consequently, this descriptor

field is used to specify an index string, i.e. name, associated with each help topic. Hickman

further discloses that a menu selection button may be selected in order to display the hierarchical

and integrated listing of topic and sub-topic names (see column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 36).

Thus the user interface provided by the help application of Hickman includes an interface

element presenting an option to view index strings of help topics.

Claims 54 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman, Irwin, and the Portable Document Format (PDF), which is described

above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,989, which is attributed to Mandyam et al. (and

hereafter referred to as "Mandyam"). As described above, Hickman, Irwin, and PDF teach a

computer like that of claim 50. In particular, Hickman describes a help file directory, which as

described above, contains mapping data for mapping help topics into a unified taxonomy

structure of help categories and help topics. It is interpreted that the structure of the directory

implicitly denotes the parent node of each help topic in the taxonomy structure. For example,

referring to the directories of figures 4A and 4B and the associated hierarchical structure of

figure 5, the topics and sub-topics in the hierarchical structure are displayed in the same order as

listed in the directories. Consequently in the directories of Hickman, the parent of a sub-topic is

specified by the first topic preceding the sub-topic. In other words, the mapping data for each

topic implicitly includes a parent ID identifying a parent node of the topic in the unified

taxonomy structure. Continuing on, Hickman further discloses that the help file directory

includes a file identifier field, which defines the location of the help file corresponding to each

help topic (see column 5, lines 2-6). Hickman, Irwin, and PDF, however, do not explicitly

specify that this file identifier field comprises a URL, as expressed in claim 54, or that the help

contents in the help files are written in a mark-up language, as is specified in claim 59.

Like Hickman, Mandyam discloses a method for providing help information for a

software application residing on a computer. More specifically, and regarding the claimed

invention, Mandyam discloses that the help information may be migrated to HTML and stored

on a web server, from which it may be accessed by specifying a URL associated with the content

(see column 6, lines 24-34, and column 2, lines 44-50).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify the method of Hickman, Irwin, and PDF such that the help

files are accessed from a web server, as is done by Mandyam. In other words, it would have

been obvious to modify Hickman such that the file identifier field comprises a URL which

specifies the location of the help contents associated with each help topic, the help contents being

written in HTML, as is taught by Mandyam. One would have been motivated to create such a

combination because storing help files on a web server consumes less space on the user's

computer, as is taught by Mandyam (see column 6, lines 24-29).

Claims 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

combination of Hickman, Irwin, and PDF, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent

No. 5,825,356, which is attributed to Habib et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Habib"). As

shown above, Hickman, Irwin, and PDF teach a computer like that recited in claim 50, which is

for providing help information. Hickman, Irwin, and PDF, however, do not teach that such help

information includes a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the

help contents stored in the help content store, as is expressed in claim 51.

Like Hickman, Habib presents a method for providing help information to a user,

wherein this help information is organized into various topics and is presented on the user's

computer (see column 3, lines 44-51). Habib additionally discloses that the presentation of help

information includes displaying a "do-it-all" button, which when selected, causes the computer

to execute a script in order to complete a task regarding a selected help topic (see column 1, lines

57-60, and column 4, line 57 – column 6, line 3). Such scripts are particularly maintained in a

script library referred to as a "catalog file" (see column 13, lines 41-67). Consequently, like

recited in claim 51, Habib presents a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects

used by the help contents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the

teachings of Hickman, Irwin, PDF, and Habib before him at the time the invention was made, to

modify the help system taught by Hickman, Irwin, and PDF such it includes buttons with similar

functionality to the "do-it-all" buttons described above and by Habib. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because "do-it-all" buttons provide a faster means of fixing a problem than that of manually fixing the problem, as is expressed by Habib (see column 4, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 52 and 53, since particular sets of scripts are associated with specific help contents, as is expressed above, it is apparent that with the above-described combination of Hickman, Irwin, PDF, and Habib, there exists some sort of store which is checked to identify which scripts to execute for particular help content. Habib particularly discloses that, for the help content to access a script, the help content must know the name of the script (see column 13, lines 41-65, particularly lines 49-52). Consequently, each help topic necessarily comprises storage for storing information, specifically the names of required scripts, which identifies that the help content associated with the topic is authorized to access such scripts. The help application checks these script names to determine what scripts the help content is allowed to access. Such storage storing these script names is therefore considered an "authorization store," like that described in claims 52 and 53.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. §1.111(C) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The Sleeter document and the Kuwamoto et al. U.S. Patent cited therein each describe a help application which provides integrated help content obtained from multiple software vendors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

btb
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